I Claim

1 A process for accessing small items disposed in a cartridge of a module holding a plurality of cartridges in slots, wherein a plurality of modules are disposed in a cabinet, said cabinet including an actuating means electrically connected to each cartridge slot, which process comprises:

(a) inputting an access code or access mode to send a signal to a cartridge selector in the cabinet to release a specific cartridge by energizing a solenoid to disengage a latch from the specific cartridge previously selected,

(b) removing the cartridge now unlatched to empty the contents therefrom,

(c) emptying the contents from the selected cartridge,

(d) replacing the cartridge back into its slot in its module.

2. A process for accessing small items in a secure storage module, which process comprises;

(a) inserting a source of monetary value selected from paper money, coins, a debit card and a credit card into an access point to,

(b) create an electronic signal to a microprocessor and associated logic to select a specific cartridge disposed within a module,

(c) releasing said specific cartridge from its slot in a module by unlatching a latch retaining said cartridge in a slot,

(d) removing any item stored in the cartridge,

(e) replacing the cartridge into a slot in a module and re-latching the cartridge into the module.

3. A process for accessing small items in a secure storage module, which process comprises:

(a) inputting an access mode code from a source selected from the group consisting of a telephone keypad, a computer keypad electronically linked to an access point and a voice recognition system to send a signal to a cartridge selector to disengage a latch retaining a specific cartridge in a module,

(b) urging said cartridge from a slot within a module, for content removal,

(c) removing the cartridge's contents,

(d) replacing the cartridge back into its slot in its module and relatching the module into place.

4. The process of claim 3, including the added steps of associating in the cabinet each of the modules with a cartridge specific identification means, whereby upon selecting an

individual cartridge, the identification designator for that cartridge switches from an on condition to an off condition.

5. A process for gaining access to a specific member of a series of modules adapted to be retained linearly in a column or row, all of which modules are mounted to a faceplate for disposition within a box for placement in a cabinet,

said faceplate having a plurality of openings corresponding in size and number to the total number of cartridge slots of all of the modules, each opening aligned with each slot,

said faceplate being attached to the series of modules,

each module having a series of adjacent cartridge slots for receipt of a cartridge to hold small items, each cartridge having a rear latch receiver, which process comprises moving a solenoid operated latching means for each cartridge slot from a first position upward to a second position by energizing said solenoid; said latching means being in engagement with a latch receiver on a respective cartridge when said cartridge is disposed in its cartridge slot.

6. A process for accessing at least one of a plurality of faceplate mounted modules disposed within a box for placement in a cabinet, each module having a plurality of cartridges in slots, and

means to access each cartridge selectively by at least one of an access mode or an access code, wherein the process comprises inputting an access mode is electronically connected to each said module and to each cartridge slot selecting the specific cartridge desired,

and electronically releasing the selected cartridge from a latched position.

7. A process for gaining access to a cabinet having a plurality of boxes, each box comprising a faceplate with a plurality of modules mounted thereto,

said cabinet including electronic actuating means for said module electrically connected to selectively actuate each module,

said actuating process including inputting one of at least one of an access code into an input device and an access mode into an input device, said access mode input device being selected from the group consisting of at least one of coin receiver, paper bill receiver, and credit/debit card readers,

each module having a plurality of removable storage cartridges for holding small items, each cartridge being engageable to latching means forming a part of the module, and then selecting from a keypad the specific cartridge to be accessed, and releasing the preselected cartridge.

8. A process for gaining access to a module for accessing small items, such as a key or token stored in a secure manner in a cartridge residing in said module, for controlled access

thereto, which module comprises:

a housing having a series of spaced walls defining a plurality of cartridge slots, adapted to each receive one cartridge, each slot being open in the front and closed off by a rear wall,

each said rear wall having a latched ejection spring disposed within each cartridge slot on the inner surface of the rear wall;

a series of mounted solenoids one each for the respective cartridge slots,

pivotal latching means, for each cartridge slot pivotally mounted and extending into a respective cartridge slot, selectively energizing a selected solenoid;

a series of cartridges each having a latch receiver at the rear thereof, each latch receiver adapted to engage a latching means, which process comprises:

disengaging the latch receiver from the latching means, and urging said cartridge out of said slot by mounting an ejection spring associated with said slot from a tensed position to an at rest position.

9. The process of claim 8, further including the step of returning the latch means to an engaged position.

10. The process of claim 3, wherein the accession of the access code is carried out on a keypad by striking a series of keys.

11. The process of claim 3, wherein the accession code comprises striking a series of letter and number keys in a preset order.